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One Hundred Thirteenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
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June 13, 2013

The Honorable Harold Geisel  
Deputy Inspector General  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Geisel:

As you are aware, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs is investigating allegations of undue influence upon State Department internal investigations. I am troubled by reports that senior State Department officials may have prevented the Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) from investigating instances of administrative and criminal misconduct within the Department.<sup>1</sup> I am likewise concerned that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) was reportedly aware of eight separate instances in which senior political appointees within the Department “influenced, manipulated, or simply called off” these cases, yet it failed to disclose this information to Congress.<sup>2</sup>

Among the cases reportedly investigated by DSS described in an October 23, 2012 memorandum: a Department security official in Beirut was alleged to have sexually assaulted foreign nationals hired as embassy guards; members of the Secretary’s security detail allegedly “engaged prostitutes while on official trips in foreign countries”; an “underground drug ring” may have supplied security contractors at Embassy Baghdad with drugs; and a U.S. Ambassador at a “sensitive diplomatic post” was “suspected of patronizing prostitutes in a public park.”<sup>3</sup>

According to reports, the October memorandum further indicates that senior political appointees within the Department intervened to manipulate these investigations. Subsequently, the OIG produced two drafts of a report for Congress. A November 20, 2012 draft included many of the details contained in the October memorandum, in addition to referencing the attempts to block

<sup>1</sup> *State Department Memo Reveals Possible Cover-Ups, Halted Investigations*, CBS News, June 10, 2013, [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505263\\_162-57588456/state-department-memo-reveals-possible-cover-ups-halted-investigations/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505263_162-57588456/state-department-memo-reveals-possible-cover-ups-halted-investigations/).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

the investigations.<sup>4</sup> However, a December 4, 2012 draft reportedly “watered down the language,” focusing more on the need for investigative independence.<sup>5</sup>

The final version of the report submitted to Congress in February 2013 was bereft of any reference to these specific cases. Instead the OIG concluded, without the requisite context, that “The Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) Special Investigations Division (SID), which investigates allegations of criminal and administrative misconduct, lacks a firewall to preclude the DS and Department of State (Department) hierarchies from exercising undue influence in particular cases.”<sup>6</sup> According to reports, some or all of these omissions came at the behest of senior State Department officials.<sup>7</sup>

On March 14, 2013, representatives from your Office briefed Committee staff on a final version of the report. At no time during this meeting did OIG personnel explain the basis of this finding or provide details concerning “undue influence” on DSS investigations. When asked, officials declined to comment on specific examples. While the Department and OIG deny any wrongdoing, the lack of detail appears to be inconsistent with the OIG’s mission to keep the Congress “fully and currently informed.”<sup>8</sup>

Therefore, I request the immediate production of both the October 23, 2012 memorandum and the draft Inspection report(s), as well as all documents and communications referring or relating to the February 2013 *Inspection of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Office of Investigations and Counterintelligence, Divisions of Special Investigations, Divisions of Special Criminal Investigations, and Computer Investigations and Forensics* (ISP-I-13-18). Additionally, we respectfully request a briefing from your Office at the earliest possible convenience to discuss your Office’s knowledge of this entire matter. Finally, please clarify in writing whether, and on what basis, OIG agreed to omit information from this final report pursuant to any State Department official’s request.

I request that you provide the requested documents and information as soon as possible, but **no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 27, 2013**. When producing documents to the Committee, please deliver production sets to the Majority Staff in Room 2170 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room B360 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The Committee prefers, if possible, to receive all documents in electronic format. An attachment to this letter provides additional information about responding to the Committee’s request.

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<sup>4</sup> Kirit Radia and Dana Hughes, *State Dept. Pushes Back on Report of Prostitutes, Cover-ups*, ABC News, June 11, 2013, <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/state-department-memo-alleges-manipulated-conduct-investigations/story?id=19367513>.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> United States Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors Office of Inspector General, *Inspection of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Office of Investigations and Counterintelligence, Divisions of Special Investigations, Divisions of Special Criminal Investigations, and Computer Investigations and Forensics* (ISP-I-13-18), February 2013.

<sup>7</sup> See, e.g., S.A. Miller and Geoff Earle, *Hillary’s Sorry State of Affairs*, N.Y. Post, June 11, 2013, [http://www.nypost.com/p/news/national/hillary\\_sorry\\_state\\_of\\_affairs\\_YVapkHqM3mz6CVjehZO7K](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/national/hillary_sorry_state_of_affairs_YVapkHqM3mz6CVjehZO7K).

<sup>8</sup> “OIG Mission,” Retrieved June 12, 2013, <http://oig.state.gov/aboutoig/about/index.htm>.

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If you have any questions, please contact Thomas Alexander, Chief Counsel for Oversight and Investigations, at 202-225-5021. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed Royce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ed" and last name "Royce" clearly distinguishable.

EDWARD R. ROYCE

Chairman

Enclosure

## DEFINITIONS

1. The term "document" means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, whether classified or unclassified, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, working papers, records notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, interoffice and intra office communications, electronic mail (e-mail), contracts, cables, notations of any type of conversation, telephone calls, meeting or other communications, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto). The term also means any graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, voice mails, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), electronic and mechanical records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, computer server files, computer hard drive files, CDs, DVDs, memory sticks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape or otherwise. A document bearing any notation not a part of the original text is to be considered a separate document. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.
2. The term "documents in your possession, custody, or control" means (a) documents that are in your possession, custody, or control, whether held by you or your past or present agents, employees, or representatives acting on your behalf; (b) documents that you have a legal right to obtain, that you have a right to copy, or to which you have access; and (c) documents that you have placed in the temporary possession, custody, or control of any third party.
3. The term "communication" means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information, regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether face-to-face, in a meeting, by telephone, mail, telexes, discussions, releases, personal delivery, or otherwise.

4. The terms "and" and "or" shall be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively to bring within the scope of this request any information which might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope. The singular includes plural number, and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neuter genders.
5. The terms "person" or "persons" means natural persons, firms, partnerships, associations, corporations, subsidiaries, divisions, departments, joint ventures, proprietorships, syndicates, or other legal, business or government entities, and all subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, departments, branches, and other units thereof.
6. The terms "referring or relating," with respect to any given subject, means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with or is in any manner whatsoever pertinent to that subject.